



## US Jews fear collision with expected Israeli government



Associated Press

By JOSEF FEDERMAN  
Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel's ties to the Jewish American community, one of its closest and most important allies, are about to be put to the test, with Israel's emerging far-right government on a collision course with Jews in the United States.

Major Jewish American organizations, traditionally a bedrock of support for Israel, have expressed alarm over the far-right character of the presumptive government led by conservative Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu. Given American Jews' predominantly liberal political views and affinity for the Democratic Party, these misgivings

could have a ripple effect in Washington and further widen what has become a partisan divide over support for Israel.

"This is a very significant crossroads," said Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of J Street, a liberal, pro-Israel group in Washington. "The potential for specific actions that could be taken by this government, these are the moments when the relationship between the bulk of American Jews and the state of Israel begins to really fray. So I'm very afraid."

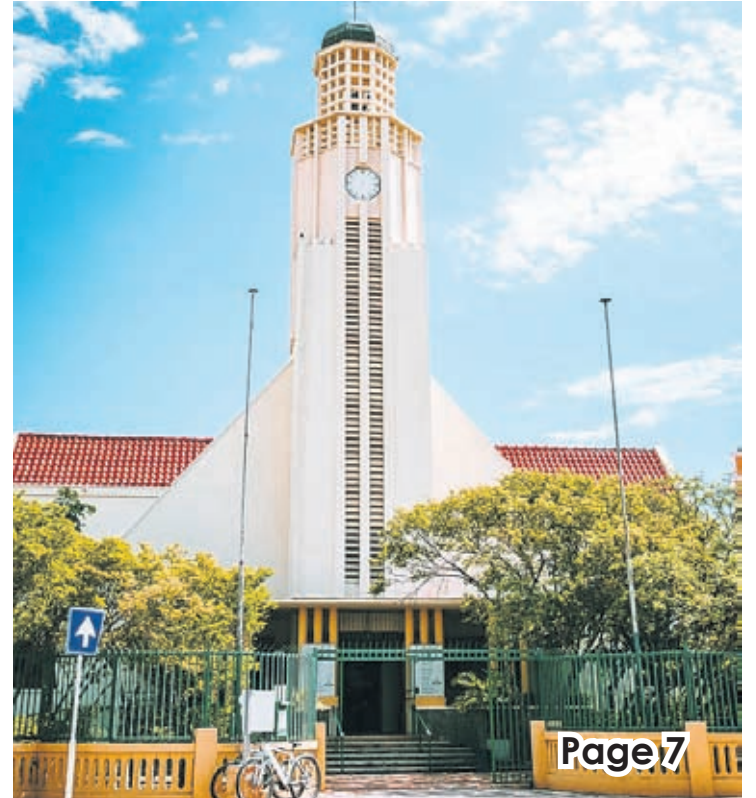
Jewish-American leaders appear especially worried about the prominent role expected to be played by a trio of hard-line, reli-

gious lawmakers. The three have made racist anti-Arab statements, denigrated the LGBTQ community, attacked Israel's legal system and demonized the liberal, non-Orthodox streams of Judaism popular in the U.S. All vehemently oppose Palestinian independence.

"These are among the most extreme voices in Israeli politics," said Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the largest Jewish movement in the U.S. "What will be the trajectory of a new Israeli government with such voices in such key leadership roles is of deep, deep concern."

Continued on Page 2

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Continued from Front

More centrist organizations, such as the Anti-Defamation League, which fights antisemitism and other forms of hatred, and the Jewish Federations of North America, an umbrella group that supports hundreds of Jewish communities, have also spoken out. Though these groups, like J Street and the Reform movement, support a two-state solution with the Palestinians, their recent statements have focused on Israel's democratic ideals. The Anti-Defamation League said that including the three far-right lawmakers in a government "runs counter to Israel's founding principles." The Federations called for "inclusive and pluralistic" policies.

For decades, American Jews have played a key role in promoting close ties between the U.S. and Israel. They have raised millions of dollars for Israeli causes, spoken out in Israel's defense and strengthened strong bipartisan support for Israel in Washington. But this longstanding relationship has come under strain in recent years — especially during Netanyahu's 2009-2021 rule.

Netanyahu's hard-line policies toward the Palestinians, his public spats

with Barack Obama over peacemaking and the Iranian nuclear issue and his close ties with Donald Trump put him at odds with many in the American Jewish community.

Opinion polls show that roughly three-quarters of American Jews lean toward the Democratic Party. They tend to be more critical of the Israeli government and more sympathetic to the Palestinians than their Republican counterparts, with these divisions even wider among younger Jews in their 20s.

These trends appear set to go into hyper-drive as Netanyahu prepares to return to power after a year and a half as opposition leader, this time flanked by some of the country's most extremist politicians.

After winning elections last month, Netanyahu and his allies are still forming their coalition. But he already has reached a number of deals that are setting off alarm bells overseas.

Itamar Ben-Gvir, a lawmaker known for his anti-Arab vitriol and provocative stunts, has been offered the job of national security minister, a powerful position that will put him in charge of Israel's national police force. This includes the paramilitary border police, a unit on the front

lines of much of the fighting with Palestinians in east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank. Ben-Gvir has labeled Arab lawmakers "terrorists" and called for deporting them. He wants to impose the death penalty on Palestinian attackers and grant soldiers immunity from prosecution.

Netanyahu also has agreed to appoint the lawmaker Avi Maoz as a deputy minister overseeing a new authority in charge of "Jewish identity" and giving him responsibilities over Israel's educational system. Maoz is known for his outspoken anti-LGBTQ positions and disparaging remarks about the Reform movement and other non-Orthodox Jews.

He wants a ban on Pride parades, has compared gays to pedophiles and wants to allow some forms of conversion therapy, a discredited practice that tries to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ children.

Maoz hopes to change Israel's "Law of Return," which allows anyone with a single Jewish grandparent to immigrate to Israel, and replace it with a much stricter definition of who is a Jew. He also opposes non-Orthodox conversions to Judaism. This is an affront to liberal Jewish groups,



Israeli far-right lawmaker and the head of "Jewish Power" party, Itamar Ben-Gvir, gestures after first exit poll results for the Israeli Parliamentary election at his party's headquarters in Jerusalem, Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022.

Associated Press

which have less rigid views on Jewish identity.

Bezael Smotrich, a settler leader with a history of anti-gay and anti-Palestinian comments, has been granted widespread authority over settlement construction and Palestinian civilian life in the occupied West Bank.

Netanyahu has been generous toward his allies because they support major legal reforms that could freeze or dismiss his corruption trial. Critics say such moves will imperil Israel's democratic foundations.

Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," Netanyahu tried to play down such concerns as he vowed to safeguard democracy and LGBTQ rights. "I ultimately

decide policy," he said.

Halie Soifer, chief executive of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, said it is premature to judge a government that hasn't yet taken office. But she acknowledged the concerns about issues like LGBTQ rights, Palestinian rights and respect for democracy — particularly with memories of the Trump administration still fresh.

"Many of those concerns are based on our own experience with an administration that didn't share our values," said Soifer.

Whether U.S. policy will be affected is unclear. The Biden administration has said it will wait to see policies, not personalities, of the new government. □



Former President Donald Trump announces a third run for president as he speaks at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla., Nov. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Lawyers for former President Donald Trump found at least two items marked as classified during a recent search of a storage unit in

West Palm Beach, Florida, and have provided them to the FBI, according to a published report Wednesday.

The Washington Post, cit-

## Report: Classified items found at Trump storage unit in Fla.

ing anonymous sources, reported that the items were discovered by an outside team brought in by Trump's representatives to search his other properties for any additional classified materials. The nature of the classified materials was not immediately clear, but the storage unit in which they were found had been used to hold items from an office in northern Virginia used by Trump staffers after he left office, the newspaper said. The FBI recovered roughly 100 documents marked as classified during an Aug. 8 search of Trump's Palm Beach estate, Mar-a-Lago.

That's on top of 37 documents bearing classification markings that Trump lawyers retrieved from the home during a June visit, as well as 15 boxes containing about 184 classified documents recovered in January by the National Archives and Records Administration.

The possibility that the Justice Department had not yet recovered all classified materials has existed for months.

The FBI's August search of the home came after investigators developed evidence indicating that additional sensitive docu-

ments remained there, even though Trump representatives had certified that all classified documents requested in a Justice Department subpoena had been located and returned.

After a federal judge pressured the Trump team to demonstrate its full compliance with the subpoena, the newspaper said, it hired an outside firm to search properties including Trump's golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, as well as Trump Tower in New York.

A Justice Department spokesman declined to comment. □



# Hawaii remembrance draws handful of Pearl Harbor survivors

By AUDREY McAVOY

Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)

— A handful of centenarian survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor gathered at the scene of the Japanese bombing on Wednesday to commemorate those who perished 81 years ago.

That's fewer than in recent years, when a dozen or more traveled to Hawaii from across the country to pay their respects at the annual remembrance ceremony.

Part of the decline reflects the dwindling number of survivors as they age. The youngest active-duty military personnel on Dec. 7, 1941, would have been about 17, making them 98 today. Many of those still alive are at least 100.

Ira Schab, 102, was on the USS Dobbin as a tuba player in the ship's band. He recalls seeing Japanese planes flying overhead and wondering what to do.

"We had no place to go and hoped they'd miss us," he said before the ceremony began.

He fed ammunition to machine gunners on the vessel, which wasn't hit.

He's now attended the remembrance ceremony four times.



Pearl Harbor survivors and other military veterans observe a ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in remembrance of those killed in the 1941 attack.

Associated Press

"I wouldn't miss it because I got an awful lot of friends that are still here that are buried here. I come back out of respect for them," he said.

Schab stayed in the Navy during the war. After the war, he studied aerospace engineering and worked on the Apollo program. Today he lives in Portland, Oregon.

He wants people to remember those who served that day.

"Remember what they're

here for. Remember and honor those that are left. They did a hell of a job. Those who are still here, dead or alive," he said.

About 2,400 servicemen were killed in the bombing, which launched the U.S. into World War II. The USS Arizona alone lost 1,177 sailors and Marines, nearly half the death toll.

Robert John Lee recalls being a 20-year-old civilian living at his parent's home on the naval base where his father ran the water pump-

ing station. The home was just about 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) across the harbor from where the USS Arizona was moored on battleship row.

The first explosions before 8 a.m. woke him up, making him think a door was slamming in the wind. He got up to yell for someone to shut the door only to look out the window at Japanese planes dropping torpedo bombs from the sky.

He saw the hull of the USS Arizona turn a deep or-

ange-red after an aerial bomb hit it.

"Within a few seconds, that explosion then came out with huge tongues of flame right straight up over the ship itself but hundreds of feet up," Lee said in an interview Monday after a boat tour of the harbor.

He still remembers the hissing sound of the fire.

Sailors jumped into the water to escape their burning ships and swam to the landing near Lee's house. Many were covered in the thick, heavy oil that coated the harbor. Lee and his mother used Fels-Naptha soap to help wash them. Sailors who were able to boarded small boats that shuttled them back to their vessels.

"Very heroic, I thought," Lee said of them.

Lee joined the Hawaii Territorial Guard the next day, and later the U.S. Navy.

He worked for Pan American World Airways for 30 years after the war.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs doesn't have statistics for how many Pearl Harbor survivors are still living. But department data show that of the 16 million who served in World War II, only about 240,000 were alive as of August and some 230 die each day. □

# Emhoff: 'Epidemic of hate' exists in U.S., mustn't become norm

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Doug Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, said Wednesday that a rise in antisemitism in the United States shows that an "epidemic of hate" exists in the country and must not become normal.

Emhoff, who is Jewish, led a White House discussion on the issue with Jewish leaders representing the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox denominations. They also were discussing ways to combat hate.

"There is an epidemic of hate facing our country. We're seeing a rapid rise in antisemitic rhetoric and acts," he said. "Let me be clear: Words matter. Peo-

ple are no longer saying the quiet parts out loud. They are literally screaming

them." He said such attitudes are dangerous and must not



Doug Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, speaks during a roundtable discussion with Jewish leaders about the rise in antisemitism and efforts to fight hate in the United States in the Indian Treaty Room in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House Campus in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022.

Associated Press

be accepted.

"We cannot normalize this. We all have an obligation to condemn these vile acts," Emhoff said. "We must all, all of us, not stay silent."

The second gentleman, as Emhoff is known, said there is no either-or or both sides on the issue. He is the first Jewish spouse of a U.S. president or vice president, and has become increasingly outspoken about growing bias toward adherents of the Jewish faith, and hate at large, in the United States. He said what is happening is "painful" to him.

"Everyone, all of us must be against this, must be against antisemitism," he said.

The roundtable, at which various White House and other officials also participated, follows a surge in anti-Jewish vitriol spread by public figures, including a famous rapper and other prominent people.

Former President Donald Trump recently hosted Nick Fuentes, a Holocaust-denying white supremacist, at Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in Florida. The rapper Ye — formerly known as Kanye West — expressed love for Adolf Hitler in an interview. Basketball star Kyrie Irving appeared to promote an antisemitic film on social media. Neo-Nazi trolls are clamoring to return to Twitter as new CEO Elon Musk grants "amnesty" to suspended accounts. □



# FBI: Polygamous leader had 20 wives, many of them minors

By FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press

**FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)** — The leader of a small polygamous group near the Arizona-Utah border had taken at least 20 wives, most of them minors, and punished followers who did not treat him as a prophet, newly filed federal court documents allege.

Samuel Bateman was a former member of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or FLDS, until he left to start his own small offshoot group. He was supported financially by male followers who also gave up their own wives and children to be Bateman's wives, according to an FBI affidavit.

The document filed Friday provides new insight into what investigators have found in a case that first became public in August, when authorities said they pulled over Bateman on a highway and discovered he was driving three young girls in an enclosed trailer. The latest filing accompanied charges of kidnapping and impeding a foreseeable prosecution against three of Bateman's wives: Naomi Bistline, Donnae Barlow and Moretta Rose Johnson. Bateman is already facing state and federal charges of child abuse and tampering with



**This undated photo provided by the Coconino County Sheriff's Office shows Samuel Bateman, who faces state child abuse charges, and federal charges of tampering with evidence.**

Associated Press

evidence. He pleaded not guilty in September.

Bistline and Barlow are scheduled to appear in federal magistrate court in Flagstaff on Wednesday. Johnson is awaiting extradition from Washington state. The women are accused of seizing eight of Bateman's children from Arizona state custody and fleeing with them. The children were found last week hundreds of miles (kilometers) away

in Spokane, Washington.

Bateman was arrested in August when someone spotted small fingers in the gap of a trailer he was hauling through Flagstaff. He posted bond but was arrested again and charged with obstructing justice in a federal investigation into whether children were being transported across state lines for sexual activity.

Court records allege that Bateman, 46, engaged in

child sex trafficking and polygamy, but none of his current charges relate to those allegations. Polygamy is illegal in Arizona but was decriminalized in Utah in 2020. Arizona Department of Child Services spokesperson Darren DaRonco and FBI spokesperson Kevin Smith declined to comment on the case Tuesday. Bistline's attorney didn't respond to a request for comment, and Barlow's attorney declined to comment. Johnson didn't have a publicly listed attorney. The FBI affidavit filed in the women's case largely centers on Bateman, who proclaimed himself a prophet in 2019. Bateman says he was told by former FLDS leader Warren Jeffs to invoke the "Spirit of God on these people." The affidavit details explicit sexual acts that Bateman and his followers engaged in to fulfill "Godly duties."

Jeffs is serving a life sentence in a Texas prison for child sex abuse related to underage marriages.

Criminal defense attorney Michael Piccarreta, who represented Jeffs on Arizona charges that were dismissed, said the state has a history of trying to take a stand against polygamy by charging relatively minor offenses to build bigger cases. "Whether this is the

same tactic that has been used in the past or whether there's more to the story, only time will tell," he said.

The office of Bateman's attorney in the federal case, Adam Zickerman, declined to comment Tuesday. Bateman lived in Colorado City among a patchwork of devout members of the polygamous FLDS, ex-church members and those who don't practice the beliefs. Polygamy is a legacy of the early teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but the mainstream church abandoned the practice in 1890 and now strictly prohibits it. Bateman often traveled to Nebraska where some of his other followers lived and internationally to Canada and Mexico for conferences. When Bateman was arrested earlier this year, he instructed his followers to obtain passports and to delete messages sent through an encrypted system, authorities said.

He demanded that his followers confess publicly for any indiscretions, and shared those confessions widely, according to the FBI affidavit.

He claimed the punishments, which ranged from a time out to public shaming and sexual activity, came from the Lord, the affidavit states. □

# Border Patrol agent dies in ATV accident during Texas patrol

**MISSION, Texas (AP)** — A U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent died Wednesday after an all-terrain vehicle accident while patrolling along the border in south Texas, according to the agency.

The accident happened about 1 a.m. near Mission, Texas, along the border with Mexico, Customs and Border Patrol said in a statement. The agent was tracking a group of people who had crossed the border illegally.

Fellow agents found the man unresponsive, began life-saving efforts and called for an ambulance, the statement said. The

agent died at a hospital.

"The death of an Agent who died while securing our nation's border is a tremendous loss for our organization and our nation, our prayers are with his family and co-workers during this difficult time," said U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz in the statement.

The agency did not release the identity of the agent and declined further comment.

The Texas-Mexico border has seen multiple deadly accidents in recent years stemming from immigration-related pursuits.

In June, four migrants died and three other people

were injured after a Jeep being pursued by Border Patrol agents crashed into the back of a tractor-trailer on the interstate near the Texas border city of El Paso. In January, Texas Department of Public Safety Special Agent Anthony Salas died after being involved in a single vehicle traffic accident near Eagle Pass while working with U.S. Border Patrol to transport six people who had illegally immigrated to the U.S. Last year, an Austin man was charged in the deaths of eight migrants after a deadly crash near the border city of Del Rio following a police chase. □



**An ATV vehicle is removed from the scene where a border patrol agent was killed on Wednesday Dec. 7, 2022 in Mission, Texas.**

Associated Press



## Suspected German coup plot spawns dozens of arrests

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — German police seized dozens of people including a self-styled prince, a retired paratrooper and a former judge on Wednesday, accusing the suspects of discussing the violent overthrow of the government but leaving unclear how concrete the plans were.

A German official and a lawmaker said that investigators may have detected real plotting, drunken fantasizing, or both. Regardless, Germany takes any right-wing threat seriously and thousands of police officers carried out pre-dawn raids across much of the country.

"We're talking about a group that, according to what we know so far, planned to violently abolish our democratic state of law and an armed attack," on the German parliament building, government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said.

Sara Nanni, a lawmaker with the Green party, part of the German government, suggested the group may not have been capable.

"More details keep coming to light that raise doubts about whether these people were even clever enough to plan and carry out such a coup," Nanni said in a post on the social network Mastodon. "The fact is: no matter how crude their ideas are and how hopeless their plans, even the attempt is dangerous!"

Federal prosecutors said the group is alleged to have believed in a "conglomerate of conspiracy theories consisting of narratives from the so-called Reich Citizens as well as QAnon ideology."

"Adherents of the Reich Citizens movement reject Germany's postwar constitution and have called for bringing down the government, while QAnon is a global conspiracy theory with roots in the United States."



Masked police officers lead Heinrich XIII Prince Reuss, center, to a police vehicle during a raid against so-called 'Reich citizens' in Frankfurt, Germany, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022.

Associated Press

The Reich Citizens scene has been under observation by Germany's domestic intelligence agency since 2016. Authorities estimate that the loose-knit movement has about 21,000 adherents.

Prosecutors said the suspects also believe Germany is ruled by a so-called "deep state."

One of the alleged ring-leaders arrested Wednesday is Heinrich XIII Prince Reuss, a 71-year-old member of the House of Reuss who continues to use the title despite Germany abolishing any formal role for royalty more than a century ago.

Federal prosecutors said Reuss, whom the group planned to install as Germany's new leader, had contacted Russian officials with the aim of imposing a new order in the country once the German government was overthrown. There is no indication that the Russians responded positively.

Police also detained Birgit Malsack-Winkemann, a judge and former lawmaker with the far-right Alternative for Germany party.

Alternative for Germany, which is known by its acronym AfD, has increasingly come under scrutiny by se-

curity services due to its ties with extremists.

AfD's co-leaders, Tino Chrupalla and Alice Weidel said they had only learned of the alleged coup plans through the media, and condemned them.

"We have full confidence in the authorities involved and demand a swift and comprehensive investigation," they said in a statement.

Chief federal prosecutor Peter Frank said some 3,000 officers were involved in the raids conducted at 150 sites in 11 of Germany's 16 states.

Officers detained 22 German citizens on suspicion of "membership in a terrorist organization," prosecutors said. Three other people, including a Russian citizen, were held on suspicion of supporting the organization, they said. Another 27 people were under investigation.

One of those arrested was a soldier serving on the support staff for Germany's special forces unit KSK in the southwestern town of Calw. The unit has received scrutiny over what officials called some soldiers' far-right beliefs.

Along with detentions in Germany, prosecutors said one person was detained

in the Austrian town of Kitzbuehel and another in Italy. The latter suspect, a 64-year-old German citizen who is a former officer in the German army special forces, is accused of being part of a criminal organization that aimed to "subvert the German democratic order by any means - including criminal - and replace it with another unidentified form of state," police said in a statement, adding that extradition proceedings were underway.

"Of course, there are many people who grandstand and tell confused tales stories after drinking alcohol," German Justice Minister Marco Buschmann said. "In this case, however, there were such strong suspicions that the group wanted to take violent action that the investigating judge at the Federal Supreme Court ordered the investigative measures to be taken."

Some of the group's members had made "concrete preparations" to storm Germany's federal parliament with a small armed group, according to prosecutors. Wednesday's raids showed that "we know how to defend ourselves with full force against the enemies of democracy," Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said. □

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# Peru's president ousted after trying to dissolve Congress

By **FRANKLIN BRICEÑO**

**Associated Press**

**LIMA, Peru (AP)** — Peru's Congress voted to remove President Pedro Castillo from office Wednesday and replace him with the vice president, shortly after Castillo tried to dissolve the legislature ahead of a scheduled vote to remove him.

The national ombudsman's office called Castillo's attempt to dissolve the Congress a coup.

Lawmakers then voted 101-6 with 10 abstentions to remove Castillo from office for reasons of "permanent moral incapacity."

Shortly before the vote, Castillo announced that he was installing a new emergency government and called for the next round of lawmakers to develop a new constitution for the Andean nation. He said during a televised address that he would rule by decree meanwhile, and ordered a nightly curfew starting Wednesday night.

Castillo also announced that he would make changes in the leadership of the judiciary, police and constitutional court. The head of Peru's army then resigned, along with four ministers, including those



Peruvian President Pedro Castillo gives a press conference at the presidential palace in Lima, Peru, Oct. 11, 2022.

over foreign affairs and the economy. Castillo took action as his opponents in Congress moved toward a third attempt to remove him from office.

The Ombudsman's Office, an autonomous government institution, said in a statement before the congressional vote that after years of democracy, Peru is in the midst of a constitutional collapse "that can't be called anything but a coup." The office called for Castillo to resign and

turn himself in to judicial authorities. "Mr. Castillo must remember that he was not only elected president of the republic, but also that the people elected representatives for public service," the statement said. "Castillo's actions ignore the will of the people and are invalid." The congressional vote called for Vice President Dina Boluarte to assume the presidency. Boluarte via Twitter rejected Castillo's actions, saying "it worsens the political and

institutional crisis that Peruvian society will have to overcome with strict adherence to the law."

Peru's Joint Chiefs and National Police rejected the constitutionality of Castillo's dissolution of the Congress in a statement.

Castillo had said in an unusual midnight address on state television ahead of the vote that he would never stain "the good name of my honest and exemplary parents, who like millions of Peruvians, work every day

to build honestly a future for their families." The peasant-turned-president said he's paying for mistakes made due to inexperience. But he said a certain sector of Congress "has as its only agenda item removing me from office because they never accepted the results of an election that you, my dear Peruvians, determined with your votes."

Castillo, whose government began in July 2021, denied allegations of corruption against him, saying they're based on "hearsay statements by people who, seeking to lighten their own punishments for supposed crimes by abusing my confidence, are trying to involve me without evidence."

The power struggle in Peru's capital has continued as the Andes and its thousands of small farms struggle to survive the worst drought in a half-century. Without rain, farmers can't plant potatoes, and the dying grass can no longer sustain herds of sheep, alpacas, vicuñas and llamas. Making matters worse, avian flu has killed at least 18,000 sea birds and infected at least one poultry producer, endangering the chicken and turkeys raised for traditional holiday meals. □

## French activists protest against killing of male chicks

**PARIS (AP)** — French animal rights activists on Wednesday protested what they say are broad exceptions in

legislation that was meant to ban the practice of killing unwanted male chicks after they hatch.



Hard-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon, right, flanked with politicians speaks with French animal rights activists group L214 protesting exceptions to a new legislation that was meant to ban the practice of killing male chicks after they hatch, in front of Agriculture Ministry in Paris, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022.

**Associated Press**

The culling ban is set to take effect in January. France-based animal rights group L214 said exceptions allowed by the government will make the law inefficient.

Activists staged a protest near the Agriculture Ministry in Paris, with some using stuffed animals to simulate chicks being put to death. Some lawmakers from the hard-left France Unbowed party, including party leader Jean-Luc Melenchon, took part to the event.

The egg industry does not use the male chicks born at hatcheries because which cannot lay eggs and are different breeds than poultry chickens. About 50 million male chicks are killed in

France each year, according to the government. The methods include crushing and gassing.

The centrist government of President Emmanuel Macron had said France was to be one of the world's first countries to ban such post-birth culling and would instead allow only methods that differentiate between male and female eggs. Similar legislation in Germany took effect at the beginning of the year.

L214 said producers have asked for an exemption for eggs meant to be transformed into food products. That means they will still be allowed to keep female chicks reared to produce that type of eggs and kill

male chicks.

Another exemption allows the killing of male chicks for making animal food. L214 argues that both provisions would enable most in the industry to avoid the ban.

Egg producers have said the process of separating male and female eggs is costly compared to traditional culling practices.

"That government is consciously lying, it's scandalous," Brigitte Gothière, L214 co-founder, said in a written statement. "It shows its indifference to animal suffering and citizen's expectations."

The French and German governments agreed in 2020 to ban the practice in both countries. □



## Hope for Paws Christmas Drive



**ORANJESTAD – Hope for Paws Christmas Drive is back and celebrating its 5th year anniversary! And this year once again they are organizing a Christmas Drive to collect donations to help Aruba's animals.**

According to the Hope

for Paws Drive Facebook page, this project started back in 2018 when they decided as a family to instead of buying each other gifts for Christmas we would make a donation and collect as many donations as we can for the Animal Shelter and the animal rescue foundations.

They also hope to inspire others to also change their tradition and teach the upcoming generation that Christmas isn't only about the gifts, but it's about family, love and helping those who need it the most.

To celebrate their 5th year anniversary they are raf-



fling a very special prize between those who donate. So get your "Santa Paw" hat and let's help our furry babies. All you have to do is:

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You can also WhatsApp Hope for Paws Drive at (+297) 593-0661.☐

## Leap of Faith presented prototype of pier for persons with disabilities

**ORANJESTAD – This week during a press conference, Terrance Ras of the Leap of Faith Foundation presented a prototype for his project Leap of Faith, which consists of a pier for people with disabilities to go into the sea and receive therapy to help them heal – and in some cases, recover their ability to walk.**

"I want to tell people that I delivered. I promised that we would start the project, and today I am presenting it to you. My wish is for people with disabilities to experience what I have experienced. I can walk again after going in the water constantly", Ras said.

Ras, based on his own personal experience, emphasized that when the water goes above the stomach area, it gives peace of mind and removes the fear to take those first steps again. "And that is the be-

ginning." He explained that the pier comes with eight pieces of equipment that can be connected to the pier to do different types of exercise. This way, therapists who want to make use of the pier for therapy can help their clients with therapy in the water.

In the beginning, Ras came up with the idea for this project under the belief that in Aruba there are less than 100 wheelchair users, however, after research, he found out that there are more than four thousand wheelchair users in Aruba, all with some type of disability.

"We need to understand that these are four thousand people who do not leave home, four thousand people who know all television programs in existence, four thousand people with back injuries from constant-

ly lying down on a bed, and four thousand people who are sadly forgotten. Right now I want to give them the chance to come back out", he said.

He explained that the pier has its own management team and he has the plans for functioning already. The pier works in a way that it can be completely dismantled and carried easily to place it in the water. The pier presented was specifically made to be placed in the sea at Baby Beach.

Ras said that the pier is not only for locals to use, but also to create a boost for Aruba as well, because Aruba will be the first place in the region to offer something for people with limitations to receive the therapy they need to maybe walk again. "I am proof of this myself", he emphasized.

His idea is to make the pier available every day, and weekly it is taken out of the water once for cleaning, after which it would be placed back in the sea. He highlighted that this doesn't cause any damage to the environment, since it's just about pulling out, rinsing, and putting it back in.

However, Ras indicated that the permit from the



Department of Public Works (DIP) is still pending.

Leap of Faith's main goal is to install piers in different areas. "This specific pier is made with the measures for Baby Beach, but when I go to another beach I can do the research again and make a pier for that

beach", he added.

He finalized saying that by the beginning of next year the pier will be ready to enter the water. It is made from aluminum and not iron, so it will not oxidize, doesn't need to be painted, and it is light enough to be carried into the water.☐





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## Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food



**PALM BEACH —** Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.



### Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.



### Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: on Monday's and Friday's the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only; on Thursday's and Saturday's you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo and on Sunday's and Tuesday's Jose Herrera will enchants you with his keyboard talent. The musicians interact with the guests, requests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experience.

### Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too.” What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels. □

### Make your reservation today at:

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For all menus and specials visit the website:  
[www.papillonaruba.com](http://www.papillonaruba.com).



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## Ambassador Dick Miller Celebrates 20th Anniversary as First Ambassador for Aruba



It was 20 years ago today, Saturday, December 7, 2002, when the Government of Aruba paid tribute to Dick and Deborah Miller at a sumptuous luncheon hosted by the Radisson Aruba Beach Resort & Casino (now the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino).

More than 200 ACE travel agent delegates and well-wishers, along with Aruba Tourism Authority representatives from Aruba and the United States filled the ballroom as then Minister of Tourism and Transportation, Edison Briesen, along with Marcial (Charly) Ibarra, Director of North America for the Aruba Tourism Authority presented Dick and Deborah Miller with the prestigious first Official Ambassador title to be given by the Island Government of Aruba.

The Award was created for Dick Miller for his boundless energy in promoting Aruba

tourism here on the island and around the World. Dick Miller hosted "The Dick Miller Show Aruba" on the radio 7 nights-a-week for 18 years. Known worldwide as the Tourism Man in the Caribbean, Dick Miller takes his honorary lifetime Ambassadorship seriously, continuing to promote Aruba wherever he travels.

The people of Aruba continue to be a part of his extended family. Today, Dick Miller is a Team Leader at

five (5) RE/MAX offices in the greater Sarasota / Venice, Florida area. He and his wife, Deborah, who was also named as Ambassador are the number one real estate Platinum Team at RE/MAX Platinum Realty's five offices.

Dick and Deborah wish to thank the Aruba Government and the people of Aruba for always welcoming them back to the island as part of the Aruba family. □



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## Sea turtle conservation by Turtugaruba Foundation

ORANJESTAD — Turtugaruba was founded on September 3rd, 2003 by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. Ten years earlier, in 1993, a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) was introduced in Aruba and the rest of the Caribbean as an initiative of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Tom Barmes, who was working at DLVV (Department of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fishery) was one of the writers of the STRAP for Aruba, together with Karen Eckert, director of WIDECAST (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network). This is how sea turtle conservation started on the island following a plan that is still complied with today.

Tom formed a group of volunteers around him, because nature does not know office hours, like an organization such as DLVV. This group of volunteers used the name WIDECAST Aruba and today there are still a few of them active. They first started protecting the Leatherback Sea Turtle nests on Palm Beach and Eagle Beach. This group also investigated which other species of sea turtles use Aruba as their nesting habitat and which beaches are used by them. For a period of 25 years a study has been conducted in which every early morning the beach was being monitored in which now there is a good overview of sea turtle nesting activities.

There are 4 different sea turtle species that visit Aruba to lay their eggs, each with their own specific season:



- Leatherback Sea Turtle - Lederschildpad - Driekiel (March – September)
- Loggerhead Sea Turtle - Dikkopschildpad - Cawama (May – September)
- Hawksbill Sea Turtle - Karetschildpad - Caret (June – December)
- Green Turtle - Soepschildpad - Turtuga Blanco (July-November)

There also came a better understanding and overview of the biggest threats to the sea turtles existence in Aruba and how these problems should be tackled. Despite hard work, all those years, most problems have not really gone away, but luckily and thanks to the enormous efforts from the volunteers, the sea turtles are still here. On Aruba the sea turtles are threatened with extinction by pollution, driving on dunes and

beaches with quads and 4x4's and the loss of nesting beaches due to coastal development on behalf of tourism. Because coastal development comes with artificial light and artificial light is a mayor issue for sea turtles, mother turtle usually comes on shore at night looking for a dark beach to make her nest. However... a dark beach is hard to find here nowadays. Light causes stress and can result in her returning to the sea without laying her eggs. Artificial light causes disorientation for the baby sea turtles (hatchlings).

They crawl towards artificial light sources (like streetlights, hotel lights, etc.) and then they don't find the sea. In the 90's it was still a common occurrence to find a complete nest of about 70 hatchlings on the streets, dead, as cars



drove over them. Thanks to their protection methods and a lot of time and effort, the volunteers of Turtugaruba have managed to get this under control. But for a sustainable solution there must be less light visible on the beaches and a strict regulation of it. Sea turtles simply need dark nesting beaches for their survival. It is clear that even more coastal development would not make the situation better for the sea turtles. Again, more hotel rooms? And even busier beaches? These are choices Aruba has to make. Do we want to leave a place for the sea turtles? Not only Aruba, but the entire world needs sea turtles! Sea turtles play a vital role in keeping our oceans healthy.

The Green Turtle, for example, keeps the sea grasses on the bottom of the sea short and therefore a healthy place for many fish to deposit their eggs. The Leatherback, the largest turtle of the world, eats mainly jellyfish and helps maintain the balance between jellyfish and plankton. Despite the threats that exist on Aruba, the turtles still keep coming. That's why today Turtugaruba is especially proud of the volunteers and the many people and organizations of our community that carry a warm place in their hearts for the sea turtles. All four species are active now, which means all hands on deck in the field for us, the volunteers. We strive to keep the sea turtles, our oldest 'repeat guests', always coming back to Aruba and get the chance to reproduce here.

### What you can do to protect the sea turtles

- Lights out for sea turtles.
- Do not drive on beaches.
- Do not litter. Do not leave any plastic cups, straws or bags on the beach.
- Remove obstacles from the beach.
- Do not disturb a nesting sea turtle. Do not attempt to touch the turtle but stay at a respectful distance (at least 10 meters).
- Do call Turtugaruba (24 hour Turtle Hotline: (297) 5929393).

For more information visit the facebook page Turtugaruba Foundation. □





## Full Stack Vision Foundation Gifts Refurbished Computers to YMCA Aruba in San Nicolas



**ORANJESTAD – The Full Stack Vision Foundation team met with Ms. Inki Geerman, Team Leader of the Y's CARE Afterschool Program, at YMCA Aruba's San Nicolas location on November 24th, 2022 to officialize their gift of six (6) refurbished computers to the community center thus establishing a new computer room for YMCA San Nicolas.**

The six (6) computers that were refurbished by Full Stack Vision Foundation (also known as Full Stack Vision and FSV) were donated by SKOA's Pius X School which is based in Dakota, Aruba. YMCA Aruba previously used The San Nicolas-based community center's space as a homework support

room. Although this space was originally a computer room, but as the original computers broke down and were disposed of, the space transitioned. The newly reactivated computer room at the YMCA San Nicolas community center is available for use during YMCA Aruba's Afterschool Program Hours which are Monday to Friday from 12.30PM to 6PM.

YMCA Aruba's San Nicolas location & Full Stack Vision are currently in the works to further develop their collaborative relationship in the form of introducing Aru Coder Dojo sessions, a FREE kids & youth computer coding club that is powered by FSV, in the newly up-and-running computer room as of 2023.



### YMCA Aruba

The YMCA Aruba is a nonprofit organization that is a part of the international organization, the YMCA, which is committed to improving the lives of people in communities on a global scale. YMCA Aruba's mission is to strive for spiritual, intellectual and physical wellbeing of both individuals and communities as a whole.

### Full Stack Vision Foundation

Full Stack Vision Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a focus on developing skills for future jobs in the borderless economy by making Aruba digitally intelligent. Full Stack Vision executes their vision and mission through the education

of Aruba's youth and children, as well as industry professionals, with a focus on 21st century skills.

For more information check out the YMCA Aruba Facebook Page and Full Stack Vision Foundation website.

### Links:

- <https://www.skoa.aw/school/pius-x-school/>
- <https://www.arubaymca.com/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/arucoderdojo>
- <https://www.ymca.org/who-we-are/our-reach/locations>
- <https://www.facebook.com/ArubaYMCA>
- <https://fullstackvision.org/> □

## Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Protestant Congregation of Aruba

**ORANJESTAD – On Saturday, 10th of December, the Protestant Congregation of Aruba will celebrate 200 years since its establishment, showing historic photographs and sharing stories from their ancestors.**

Which people shaped the history of the Protestant Church in Aruba? What is the history behind the Kerki 1846? Why was the church in Piedra Plat built? Why was the church in Serroe Colorado ever built? How did the present-day church in Oranjestad end

up there? Who did this and why? Did you know that in 1904 a book of photographs was given to Queen Wilhelmina, as a greeting from the Caribbean part of the kingdom to wish her a speedy recovery after illness? It contains 32 splendid black-and-white photos, which have now been digitally reproduced in pinpoint-sharp clarity. We are going to show them!

Another feature of this evening: stories about our ancestors, those who shaped present-day Aruban soci-



ety. An evening with images and stories.

The speakers at this evening are:  
Prof. Wim Rutgers, authority on the Netherlands;  
Leon Bereños, fountain of knowledge;  
Peter Scholing, National Library Aruba;  
Rev. Jan Rinzema.

Oranjestad church, Saturday 10 December, 7 PM. □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 41 — Hari  
1 Wilson's predecessor  
5 Fresh start, as of a movie series  
11 Franc's replacement  
12 Carry too far  
13 Asia's — Sea  
14 Icy dessert  
15 End of a voyage  
17 Colorful carp  
18 Scenic outlook  
22 Mistake  
24 Door sign  
25 Sun Devil's sch.  
26 Western tribe  
27 Mouth-wash target  
30 Airport areas  
32 Took notice  
33 Tiny laborer  
34 Frilly dressing gown  
38 Ill will

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	S	K	A	T	E	H	I	M	
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Y	E	T	Q	U	I	T	S		
	J	U	N	G	H	O	P		
R	E	S	A	I	D	D	I	V	A
E	M	I	G	R	E	I	R	A	N
P	U	R	S	E	R	M	E	L	T

## Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**  
1 Blue hue  
2 Mystique  
3 German city  
4 Related  
5 Civil rights figure  
6 Change over time  
7 German city  
8 Sphere  
9 Poem of praise  
10 Young one  
16 Old cry of distaste  
19 German city  
20 Head, to Henri  
21 Son of Zeus  
22 Jokes  
23 Sailing  
28 German city  
29 Coined money  
30 Lass  
31 Hostility  
35 Bike part  
36 Sicilian peak  
37 Relaxed  
38 Yoga need  
39 Brewpub order  
40 Set fire to

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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3				14					
5				16					
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25				26					
27		28	29	30	31				
32				33					
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38	39	40			41				
42					43				
44					45				

12-8

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-8

## CRYPTOQUOTE

LOB XYCDH NR J EDJAB  
XOBCB LOB BFLCJYCHNVJCQ AJV  
RNL GTRL IBRNHB LOB YCHNVJCQ  
XNLO LOB LONVVBR L YW

IYTVHJCNR. GYHN ENAYTDL  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: STUDY NATURE, LOVE NATURE. STAY CLOSE TO NATURE. IT WILL NEVER FAIL YOU. — FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

# Co-buying a house: How platonic partners make it work

By ABBY BADACH DOYLE  
of NerdWallet

Seven years ago, Phil Levin and his girlfriend, Kristen Berman, pondered a common question: Should we move in together? Levin assumed they'd take a predictable path and find a more affordable apartment outside of pricey San Francisco. But Berman, a behavioral scientist, shared her reservations about leaving their friend network and some facts to back it up. "All the behavioral science research shows that that's one of the worst things you can do for your happiness," Levin says. Instead, the couple rented a Victorian-era mansion in San Francisco's Hayes Valley neighborhood and invited nine friends to move in. Today, they co-own a multiunit property in Oakland, California, called Radish, which houses 17 adults and two infants.

It took some effort to find the right property and figure out finances. But the now-married couple couldn't imagine designing their life or raising their daughter any other way. "Being able to have this extended family of 'aunties' and 'uncles' close by has been wonderful," Levin says. Many co-buyers operate on a smaller scale. But no matter the size of your group, co-buying requires extra planning and paperwork. If you're willing to get vulnerable about your finances and long-term goals, the payoff of companionship can be worth it.

## KEEP AN OPEN MIND

In the National Association of Realtors' 2022 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers, a record-high 5% of first-time home buyers were



An advertising sign for building land stands in front of a new home construction site in Northbrook, Ill., Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022.

Associated Press

"other household compositions" that is, something different than single, married or coupled. "It can be a great situation, and a way to enter the market that they wouldn't be able to enter otherwise," says Don Koonce, a real estate agent in Seattle who has helped dozens of co-buyers during his eight years in real estate.

Many co-buyers Koonce has worked with are platonic friends who have been living together for years.

But they're as diverse as the types of homes they buy, which range from traditional single-family homes to condos and duplexes. The right home depends on your group's size and tolerance of personal versus shared space. Houses with basements work well for separate living spaces, Koonce says, or you could remodel.

Recently, Koonce helped a mother and daughter buy a split-level that they renovated into two distinct units, including separate kitchens.

"It was beautiful," he says. "I don't see any problem

with a resale on that, because somebody could rent it out."

## STRESS-TEST YOUR RELATIONSHIP

Even for family members or experienced roommates, the financial commitment of co-buying raises the stakes.

Ashley Agnew is an investment advisor and financial therapist with Centerpoint Advisors, a wealth management firm in Needham, Massachusetts. When working with co-buyers, she role-plays worst-case scenarios to "stress test" the relationship, such as how they'd handle major home repairs or theft. You really do have to get a little bit financially naked with the person that you're buying with," she says.

"There has to be a lot of transparency."

Agnew always recommends that co-buyers seek legal counsel. An estate attorney can draft a cohabitation agreement something that's not just for romantic partners, she notes. That way, all parties know what to expect if someone wants out of the homeownership commitment. "It's almost like running a minibusiness, especially if it's not a coupleship," Agnew says.

An estate attorney can also help co-buyers understand options for titling the home, such as joint tenancy or tenancy in common. Each arrangement has pros, cons and legal obligations. □

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24/7



# Amid outcry, San Francisco pauses on 'killer police robots'

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — San Francisco supervisors voted Tuesday to put the brakes on a controversial policy that would have let police use robots for deadly force, reversing course just days after their approval of the plan generated fierce pushback and warnings about the militarization and automation of policing.

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to explicitly ban the use of robots in such a fashion for now. But they sent the issue back to a committee for further discussion and could vote in the future to let police use robots in a lethal manner in limited cases. The board voted last week to allow the use of deadly robots in extreme circumstances. The police department said it had no plans to arm the robots with guns but wanted the ability to put explosives on them and use them to contact, incapacitate or disorient dangerous or armed suspects when lives are at risk. The initial vote thrust the famously liberal city into the center of a debate about the future of technology and policing, with some saying arming robots was a step too close to something one would see in a dystopian science fiction movie. Though robot technology for policing has become more widely available, departments across the country have rarely used it to confront or kill suspects. Three supervisors



Diana Scott holds up a sign while taking part in a demonstration about the use of robots by the San Francisco Police Department outside of City Hall in San Francisco, Monday, Dec. 5, 2022.

Associated Press

who rejected the policy from the beginning joined dozens of protesters Monday outside City Hall to urge the board to change course. They chanted and held signs with phrases like "We all saw that movie... No Killer Robots." Supervisor Dean Preston was among them, and on Tuesday he told his colleagues the public hadn't been given enough time to voice their concerns about such a pressing issue. "The people of San Francisco have spoken loud and clear: There is no place for killer police robots in our city," he said in a state-

ment after the vote. "We should be working on ways to decrease the use of force by local law enforcement, not giving them new tools to kill people." The vote was the result of a new state law that requires police departments to inventory equipment including certain guns, grenades, armored vehicles and battering rams and to seek explicit approval for their use. So far, only San Francisco and Oakland have discussed lethal robots as part of that law. Oakland police wanted to arm robots with shotguns but backed down in the face of public

opposition, instead opting for pepper spray.

Some San Francisco officials wanted to proceed with allowing robots to use deadly force in certain cases, arguing nothing substantive had changed to warrant a reversal.

But the vote to advance the broader police equipment policy — including the ban on lethal robots — passed unanimously. □

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Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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Jet Blue	588 2244
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Fundacion Contra Violencia  
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Centre for Diabetes  
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Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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facebook.com/arubatoday/



# Review: 'Spoiler Alert' — You're gonna need those Kleenex

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**  
AP National Writer

In one of the more effective moments of "Spoiler Alert," the camera does something unexpected and wise: it leaves the room. At the very moment a dining-table conversation becomes unbearably painful, the viewer is moved outside, where we can only watch the characters in shadows through a window, hearing nothing. We don't need to hear the words. We know that Kit (Ben Aldridge) and his boyfriend Michael (Jim Parsons) are telling Kit's parents (a heartbreaking Sally Field and Bill Irwin) that their handsome, charismatic son has a likely fatal disease. We know them all well enough to fill in the blanks.

It's a moment of admirable restraint, in a film that doesn't always make that choice. While often deeply moving, "Spoiler Alert," directed by Michael Showalter and based on the relationship memoir by Michael Ausiello, seems at times unable to decide what kind of film it is, resulting in a number of jarring tonal shifts particularly one at the very end, which distances



This image released by Focus Features shows Jim Parsons, left, and Ben Aldridge in a scene from "Spoiler Alert."

Associated Press

us from the characters and their plight just when we're feeling the most committed to them. At times "Spoiler Alert" feels like an edgy, clever film that plays wittily on the main character's lifelong obsession with TV. At others, it feels like a more formulaic, holiday-themed tearjerker the passing years are marked in a Christmas card montage! that wrings our tears in unobvious ways.

It's no crime to be the latter, but the film often reminds us that it seeks to be the former. In any case, bring those Kleenex because you'll need them. You WILL cry. That much is a given. We witness the couple's first meeting at a bar. Michael, a journalist who covers television (Parsons both stars and produces), is hardly one for bars. He's a "work late, get up early guy" and sticks to Diet Coke. But a

colleague has dragged him out, and now he sees Kit across the dance floor, and he's gorgeous, so, well, that's that. (Aldridge is impossibly charming if you don't know this actor already you will probably, like me, start randomly Googling "Tell me about Ben Aldridge." And spoiler alert! he's British and totally nails the American accent.) Soon after, the two are

having dinner and talking about their lives. Truth is, there is little that ostensibly links these two not their jobs, not their family circumstances, certainly not Michael's obsession with the Smurfs, though we're getting ahead of ourselves there. But chemistry works in mysterious ways. Soon they're at Kit's apartment, awkwardly hooking up. Well, awkwardly for Michael, who's way less comfortable, and explains that he is a FFK (former fat kid) and thus has body issues. In case you can't quite picture this, we have a running motif where Michael's youth is depicted as an old-fashioned sitcom a device that feels clever at first, but wears thin.

Anyway, soon Kit has given Michael closet space in his apartment.

When Kit comes down with appendicitis (unrelated to later health issues) his parents insist on coming to New York, and this results in a hilarious attempt by Michael to "de-gay" Kit's apartment (did we mention? Kit hasn't come out to his parents yet.) That "Beaches" DVD? Gone. "When Harry Met Sally" too. And much more.□

## 2 Chainz hosts Amazon Music live concerts using NFL platform

By **JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**  
AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — 2 Chainz wants to capitalize off the NFL's huge "Thursday Night Football" platform to feature some of the world's most popular musical performers on Amazon Music's live concert series. The Grammy winner is the host of "Amazon Music Live," a weekly live show that streams on Prime Video after "Thursday Night Football." It is filmed each week in front of a live audience in Los Angeles. The concert series, which debuted in late October with guest Lil Baby, has also featured Megan Thee Stallion and Kane Brown. Last month, 2 Chainz took the stage with Lil Wayne, who performed some of his hits,

including his verse on DJ Khaled's "God Did." Rapper A\$AP Rocky will hit the stage Thursday, and Brazilian singer Anitta is expected to perform next week.

"This is a huge benefit for

artists who are able to access one of the biggest platforms on TV, with 'Thursday Night Football' having so many viewers, coming on after the game," 2 Chainz said about the concert series.



2 Chainz poses for a portrait on Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"You're going to be in certain living rooms that you may or may not be privileged to be in," 2 Chainz said. "I think it helps the overall bigger picture as far as sports and music fusing together."

In each episode, 2 Chainz interviews the featured artist. He usually reads the questions off a teleprompter, but he sometimes throws in his own topics as well. 2 Chainz credits Vice TV's "Most Expensivest" for readying him for the challenge of the concert series. He hosts the reality series that explores the most expensive items such as food, jewelry and drinks. The rapper said he just wrapped filming his fourth season. "That show, I think, has grown me and prepared

me for roles like this, where I'm on the other side of the desk," he said. "With hosting, I'm still holding a microphone. So, it's still very much a part of the DNA that I'm accustomed to. ... like being on stage and rocking out."

2 Chainz said Amazon reached out to him and his team about a "new vision" of marrying the worlds of football and music. The idea was birthed after Amazon and the NFL entered into an 11-year agreement to air the prime-time professional football games on the streaming service.

The rapper said a strong relationship was already built between him and Amazon Music after partnering to rollout a couple of his albums.□



# AP source: Aaron Judge, Yankees reach \$360M, 9-year deal

By RONALD BLUM and JAY COHEN

AP Baseball Writers

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Aaron Judge has issued his ruling: Court remains in session in the Bronx.

Judge is staying with the New York Yankees on a \$360 million, nine-year contract, according to a person familiar with baseball's biggest free agent deal ever.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the AL MVP's contract had not been announced.

Judge, who hit an American League record 62 homers last season, will earn \$40 million per year, the highest average annual payout for a position player. The contract trails only Mike Trout's \$426.5 million deal with the Los Angeles Angels and Mookie Betts' \$365 million pact with the Los Angeles Dodgers for biggest in baseball history. Trout and Betts were already under contract when they signed those deals.

The Yankees made a long-term offer to Judge before last season that was worth



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge watches his solo home run ball during the second inning of Game 5 of an American League Division baseball series against the Cleveland Guardians, Oct. 18, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

\$213.5 million over seven years from 2023-29. But the outfielder turned it down in the hours before opening day in April.

The 6-foot-7 Judge bet on himself and won.

Judge surpassed Roger Maris' AL home run mark to power New York to an AL East title. He also tied for the major league lead with

131 RBIs and just missed a Triple Crown with a .311 batting average.

New York was swept by Houston in the AL Championship Series, but Judge became the first AL MVP for the Yankees since Alex Rodriguez in 2007.

By rejecting the Yankees' preseason offer, Judge gained \$146.5 million and

an extra two guaranteed seasons. The Northern California native also visited with the San Francisco Giants last month, and there likely were more teams monitoring the market for the slugger who turns 31 in April.

Judge's decision will have a domino effect on several teams and free agents. His

status held up at least some of New York's offseason plans given the size of the contract but general manager Brian Cashman made it clear his team would wait patiently while Judge contemplated his options. In the end, that approach worked.

"So we'll wait, we'll wait for this process to play out," Cashman said Monday at baseball's winter meetings in San Diego. "And that means staying active in the conversations and negotiations." Judge, 30, was selected by New York in the first round of the 2013 amateur draft and made his big league debut in 2016, homering in his first at-bat. A year later, he was one of baseball's breakout stars. He hit .284 with 52 homers and 114 RBIs in 2017, winning the AL Rookie of the Year award.

The four-time All-Star has 220 homers and 497 RBIs in seven big league seasons. "A guy of his stature and his greatness hopefully spends his entire career into Monument Park and into the Hall of Fame as a Yankee," New York manager Aaron Boone said Tuesday. □

# Bradley, Froch, Rafael Marquez top boxing Hall of Fame class

**CANASTOTA, N.Y. (AP)** — Timothy Bradley Jr. and Rafael Marquez, two-division champions whose exciting styles earned both of them "Fight of the Year" honors, and Carl Froch were inducted Wednesday to the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

The three fighters will make up the men's modern category when the 10-member class of 2023 is enshrined next June.

Bradley won his first 140-pound title in 2008 and moved up to take a welterweight title from Manny Pacquiao by split decision in 2012. Bradley defended the title by outlasting Ruslan Provodnikov in what was voted the Fight of the Year in 2013. Bradley would eventually suffer his only two losses in rematches

with Pacquiao, finishing 33-2-1 with one no-contest. He is now an analyst for ESPN. Marquez (41-9, 37 KOs) is best known for his four-fight series with Israel Vazquez. Marquez whose brother Juan Manuel Marquez was inducted in 2020 took the first bout by seventh-round stoppage to win a super bantamweight title after previously holding a belt at bantamweight. Vazquez came back to win the next two they were voted Fight of the Year in 2007 and 2008 and Marquez evened things up with a third-round knockout in 2010.

Froch was among the top super middleweights of his era. His only losses were to unbeaten Andre Ward in the finals of a tournament for a 168-pound title, and to Mikkel Kessler in a defeat

he later avenged in 2013 to give him two belts in the division. He defended them both twice before retiring in 2014 at 33-2 with 24 KOs. The native of Britain has since worked for Sky Sports. "Boxing is the best sport in the world," Froch said in comments provided by the Hall. "It tests everything in a man and a woman. The mentality, discipline, grit, determination, heart, desire, everything is all in that ring and it is just you on your own with your opponent." The inductees were selected by vote of the Boxing Writers Association of America.

Inducted from the women's modern category were Laura Serrano, Mexico's first female boxing champion and the first women's boxing Hall of Famer, and

Alicia Ashley, a Jamaican who became the oldest woman to win a title at 48 and boxed until she was 50. "I dedicated my whole life to boxing and I did my best in those days when it was very difficult for wom-

en to fight especially in my country of Mexico, where I fought for women's rights," said Serrano, whose success helped lead to a reversal of a ban on women's boxing in Mexico City. □



Timothy Bradley Jr. poses at a news conference ahead of a fight against Manny Pacquiao, Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press



## Christmas may be new Thanksgiving as NHL playoff barometer

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Hockey Writer

For the better part of two decades since the NHL instituted a salary cap, enjoying turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes were synonymous with feeling pretty good about making the playoffs.

Dating to 2005-06, with lockout- and pandemic-related seasons excepted, 76% of teams in a playoff spot by the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday wound up qualifying. It became such a popular narrative it began to seep into coaches' offices and locker rooms based on the odds alone. Maybe not this year. Thanks to the season starting later than normal, many contenders still trying to find a groove amid vari-



In this photo shot with a wide angle lens, Colorado Avalanche goaltender Pavel Francouz looks back to see the puck on the goal line but the play was ruled no goal as the goal had come off its moorings before the puck crossed the line during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Boston Bruins Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

ous injuries and expansion to 32 teams also makes it inherently harder to make the playoffs. The Christmas break may be a better for barometer for who's play-

ing for the Stanley Cup beginning in April. "This is the year where I don't know if it's going to correlate. I think there might be a little bit of a wrench in that," longtime player and coach Rick Tocchet said. "This is a little goofy season. I don't think you can have that barometer. I think you have to wait a little bit longer." Already in the week since Thanksgiving, the top eight teams in the Western Conference have changed out, with Calgary and St. Louis for Edmonton and Minnesota. While New Jersey is starting to look like the real deal, Detroit remains a bit surprisingly in a playoff spot in the East with Washington, Florida and others on the outside looking in.

Capitals coach Peter Laviolette acknowledged the history of teams riding a good Thanksgiving spot into the playoffs. But, he points out, "I know teams have made it to the playoffs and played for Cups from behind the line."

He did it with Philadelphia in 2009-10, inheriting the 22nd-place team in the league in December and taking it to the final. But the reality is that's more the exception than the rule.

Coach Jared Bednar's theory is to stay in the mix and keep pushing until reinforcements arrive, and he knows other teams are going through similar struggles and transitions; there were 10 new coaches on the bench as the season began. That's why he thinks the first 15 or so games of the season is not enough to start making judgments. "Some teams have a lot of new players, new coaches all around the league," Bednar said. "It takes some time to get dialed in exactly the way you want to go, so I think this year with all the movement through the league now last couple years — lots of coaches moving — I think it can take time for teams to find their footing." Tocchet, now a Turner Sports analyst, also points to the number of comebacks as a reason for uncertainty. □

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